Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 041430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BDIS, EMIN, GV, US

SUBJECT: HALCO RESPONSE TO EXPORT TAX

- 1. HALCO PARTNERS MET IN PARIS FEB 12-13 MAINLY FOR DISCUSSIONS COMPANY RESPONSE TO GUINEAN BAUXITE EXPORT TAX. MARTIN-MARIETTA REP TOLD AF/W FEB 21 DECISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR HALCO PRESIDENT TO SEND LETTER TO PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE EXPLAINING COMPANY CONCERN OVER TAX, AND HOW IT EFFECTS BASIC AGREEMENT. LETTER WILL SUGGEST HIGH LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN ALUMINUM COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE AND PRESIDENT TOURE.
- 2. IN MEANTIME, HALCO PARTNERS HAVE YET TO RECEIVE GUINEAN INVITATION FOR FORTHCOMING CBG MEETING WHICH, IN THEORY, WAS SCHEDULED FOR END OF FEBRUARY. HALCO NOT INCLINED TO MEET WITH GUINEANS USING CBG BOARD FRAMEWORK UNTIL RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT TOURE. ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT, 30 DAYS PRIOR NOTICE REQUIRED FOR CONVENING BOARD MEETING. MARTIN-MARIETTA REP SAID MIN DIAKITE WAS APPRISED IN LOW KEY ABOUT COMPANY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERN WITH TAX BY M-M ALUMINUM COMPANY PRESIDENT BRADLEY

DURING MINISTER'S RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT. DIAKITE WAS NON-COMMITTAL, SAYING HE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS TAX IN CONTEXT OF VISIT WHICH LARGELY DEVOTED TO OTHER MATTERS.

3. MARTIN-MARIETTA REP CONFIRMED HALCO RECEIPT OF GOG BILL FOR IN EXCESS DOLS FIVE MILLION TO COVER EXPORT TAX FOR FINAL QUARTER 1974. HALCO IS NOT ABOUT TO MAKE PAYMENT, BUT IF PRESSED BY GOG WILL POINT OUT THAT HALCO DOES NOT PURCHASE BAUXITE. MARTIN-MARIETTA BEMUSED BY GUINEAN TACTIC OF BILLING HALCO, AS GOG PRESUMABLY WELL AWARE THAT BAUXITE IS PURCHASED UNDER INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS BETWEEN CBG AND ALUMINUM COMPANIES WHO COMPOSE HALCO.

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